

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 DHA-02 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 /077 W
-----242028Z 072864 /47

R 240941Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7167
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMCONSUL DURBAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 1386

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SF, PINT, PFOR, US
SUBJECT: REACTIONS TO CARTER/BUTHELEZI MEETING

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL SAG COMMENT ON THE MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT CARTER AND KWAZULU CHIEF MINISTER BUTHELEZI. JOHANNESBURG HAS REPORTED GENERAL NATIONWIDE PRESS COVERAGE OF MEETING. HOWEVER, PERUSAL OF BLACK PRESS SHOWS GENERAL EDITORIAL SUPPORT FOR MEETING. THIS COULD BE EXPECTED FROM "THE NATION", AN INKATHA SUPPORTED PAPER, BUT IT ALSO APPEARED IN THE POST, WHICH IS NOT ALWAYS FRIENDLY TO BUTHELEZI. THE LATTER ALSO RAN AN INTERVIEW BETWEEN FAROOK KHAN AND BUTHELEZI IN WHICH BUTHELEZI IS QUOTED AS SAYING HE TOLD CARTER THAT HE WAS ALL FOR PEACEFUL CHANGE, BUT THAT VORSTER WAS "THICK HEADED AND NOT PREPARED TO SOFTEN UP". BUTHELEZI ALSO DISCUSSED AMERICAN COMPANIES OPERATING IN SOUTH AFRICA, BUT DIRECTION OF HIS
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REMARKS ON THIS SUBJECT WAS NOT ELABORATED UPON.

END UNCLASSIFIED

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2. IN MARCH 22 DISCUSSION WITH ENOCH DUMA, REPORTER

FROM SUNDAY TIMES, WHO IS PERSONAL FRIEND OF BUTHELEZI, A ZULU, AND WELL PLUGGED IN TO KWAZULU AND URBAN BLACK AFFAIRS, EMBOFF WAS TOLD THAT MEETING WAS WELCOMED BY URBAN BLACKS. DUMA HAD BEGUN BY TALKING ABOUT BUTHELEZI, WHO HE RESPECTS PERSONALLY BUT DOES NOT ACCEPT AS BLACK "LEADER". HE SAID MOST URBAN BLACKS EITHER REJECT BUTHELEZI OUTRIGHT OR ELSE VIEW HIM AS REPRESENTATIVE OF ONLY ONE SEGMENT OF BLACK SOUTH AFRICA. HOWEVER, WHEN ASKED IF CARTER'S MEETING WITH BUTHELEZI WAS LOOKED UPON WITH DISFAVOR, DUMA REPLIED "OH, NO*" BLACKS, HE SAID, FIRST OF ALL TOOK THE MEETING SYMBOLICALLY, BECAUSE IT WAS THE FIRST HIGH LEVEL CONTACT WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND IT WAS WITH A BLACK SOUTH AFRICAN. SECONDLY, IT IS FELT THAT BUTHELEZI, DESPITE HIS HOMELAND IDENTIFICATION, CAN "GET OUR STORY ACROSS", SO BLACKS GENERALLY FEEL THAT THEIR GRIEVANCES WERE PROBABLY FAITHFULLY AIRED. DUMA CAUTIONED THAT WE NOT MAKE THE MISTAKE OF THINKING BUTHELEZI IS REPRESENTED BLACK SOUTH AFRICA. BUT, HE ADDED, "BUTHELEZI IS A BLACK SOUTH AFRICAN" AND CAN SPEAK "ABOUT US".BOWDLER

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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